

## **II Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (New) A valve guide for a discharge valve assembly, said valve guide comprising:
  - a conical prop;
  - a socket extending through said prop, said socket for slidebly receiving a stem of a piston;
  - a plurality of apertures intersecting said socket .
3. (New) In a discharge valve assembly, said valve assembly having a valve seat, a spring, a piston, and a valve guide, said valve guide having a socket, said socket having a plurality of apertures intersecting said socket, said piston comprising:
  - a head with a bottom surface that is convex across its entirety; and
  - a stem extending away from said head.